

DOE News Release

Date: July 9, 2008

Time: 4:45 p.m.

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**Wildland fire at Idaho National Laboratory –
Non-INL vehicle accident with injuries reported**

Following is an update on the wildland fire reported at the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory's desert site as of 4:45 p.m.

- The fire, which started about 2 p.m. on the north side of U.S. Highway 20, has grown to 1,200 acres.
- The fire is located between the Materials & Fuels Complex (approx. 38 miles west of Idaho Falls) and Central Facilities Area (approx. 45 miles west of Idaho Falls).
- Firefighters and heavy equipment from the INL Fire Department and Bureau of Land Management are on the scene.
- As a precaution, all employees at the Materials & Fuels Complex were evacuated and brought back to Idaho Falls.
- A vehicle accident on U.S. Highway 20 involving non-INL personnel occurred near the entrance of MFC. Injuries were reported, and two persons were transported by ambulance to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center. Idaho State Police are responding to the accident.
- It appears that the accident was unrelated to the evacuation.
- U.S. Highway 20 is closed from Idaho Falls to the junction of U.S. Highways 20/26.

INL's emergency Joint Information Center at the Engineering Research Office Building, 2525 Fremont Ave., Idaho Falls, has been activated to answer questions. Media should call (208) 526-9206, not your regular INL contacts. Employees and the public can call (208) 526-5042.

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Media Information: (208) 526-9206

Public Information: (208) 526-5042

News releases about the fire are posted on INL's Web site (upper right corner) at <https://inlportal.inl.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=255&mode=2>.

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